



ANNUAL REPORT
The Young Academy
2023

Amsterdam, April 2024
The Young Academy

BACKGROUND

In accordance with the Regulations of The Young Academy as adopted by the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (Royal Academy, KNAW), the Board of The Young Academy hereby presents its Annual Report for 2023, including its financial overview. This Annual Report for 2023 was approved by the members of The Young Academy voting on 27 March 2024.

PREFACE

Founded in 2005, The Young Academy has become a familiar and respected platform of early-career researchers active in a range of disciplines who have outspoken views about science and science policy. They are frequent guests in the media and serious discussion partners as regards national and international governance and policy. Members are also actively involved in raising awareness of science at schools and public events. They make a major contribution to Royal Academy councils, committees, assessment committees and juries, and to various events organised by the Learned Society. The strength of The Young Academy is to be found in its deeply felt enthusiasm for science and scholarship and the desire to share that enthusiasm with society.

In 2023, The Young Academy once again embarked on a broad spectrum of activities, ranging from media appearances to research. It published two reports, contributed to the PNN survey on international scholarship PhD candidates, launched a new podcast series, issued several statements, organised meetings and kicked off several projects, including the 'Everyone Professor Year' and a survey addressing the mental health of academics. Five members' meetings were held in 2023, with one taking place during the members' weekend and one on site in Wageningen.

Major themes in 2023 were career policy and health in academia, the internationalisation of higher education in the Netherlands, diversity and inclusion, academic freedom and research funding, dialogues with various audiences about science and scholarship, and the enhancement of interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research. There was also a relaunch of the Arts and Science (AxS) theme. This Annual Report describes the activities by theme.

The Young Academy believes it is crucial to continue engaging in critical self-reflection. For example, during its members' weekend in May, members reflected on The Young Academy's inclusiveness, its objectives, and what they expected from their membership. The theme groups also updated their strategic visions, and the Board visited five university governing bodies in 2023 to ask for feedback on their experiences with The Young Academy, among other things.

Marie-José van Tol
Chairperson, April 2022 – April 2024

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1 GENERAL INFORMATION

1.1 The Young Academy's objectives

The Young Academy was established by the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW) in 2005. It is a society of young researchers who received their PhD no more than ten years before their being invited to join. Its main objectives are:

- 1 to bring young researchers actively into contact with disciplines outside their own area of specialisation and with possibilities of conducting interdisciplinary research;
- 2 to encourage young researchers to think strategically about the future of their own discipline, about collaboration with other disciplines, and about science policy;
- 3 to encourage young researchers to communicate their scientific insights to the general public;
- 4 to support young researchers in their progress as such;
- 5 to encourage young researchers to place the Dutch academic context within international frameworks and to urge reflection on the position of foreign young researchers within the Dutch system

1.2 Core activities

With a view to achieving its main objectives, The Young Academy engages in the following activities:

- It actively brings young researchers into contact with disciplines outside their own area of specialisation and in doing so encourages interdisciplinary research.
- It asks members to make an active contribution to the future of their own and ancillary disciplines and/or to interdisciplinary research, and to formulate their views on science policy.
- It consults with science organisations and ministries and advises them on science policy.
- It conveys its fascination with scientific insights and the conduct of research to school pupils and students and to the public, and considers the matter of valorisation in the broadest sense of the word.
- It has a grants programme to provide financial support for members if a study or project is in line with its objectives.
- It makes an active contribution to internationalisation, for example through exchange programmes with other young academies (both national and international) and international organisations.

The Young Academy also wishes:

- to express its opinions and recommendations in the clearest possible terms to government and the political world as well as in the media;
- to promote exchanges and cooperation with all parts of the Royal Academy, including the Society of Arts;
- to critically monitor important developments, such as new investment in research and implementation of plans concerning recognition and rewards for researchers;
- to continue to encourage discussion of research and the public relevance of science, for example by means of lectures and symposia;
- to experiment with methods for encouraging children, adolescents, and the general public to take an interest in and learn about science;
- to continue developing ideas and recommendations for interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary cooperation.

1.3 Governance and organisation

Although facilitated by the Royal Academy, The Young Academy operates independently within the framework of the former.

Until 1 April 2023, The Young Academy's Board members were:

- Marie-José van Tol (chair, technical chair of selection committee, coordination and general matters);
- Thijs Bol (vice-chair, science policy, and chair of the project grants committee);

- Hilde Verbeek (member, Content and Interdisciplinarity portfolio);
- Erik van Sebille (member, Internationalisation portfolio);
- Hanneke Hulst (member, Science and Society portfolio).

Since 1 April 2023, the members of the Board have been:

- Marie-José van Tol (chair, technical chair of selection committee, coordination and general matters);
- Thijs Bol (vice-chair, science policy, and chair of the project grants committee);
- Hilde Verbeek (member, Content and Interdisciplinarity portfolio);
- Noel de Miranda (member, Internationalisation portfolio);
- Eddie Brummelman (member, Science & Society portfolio).

The Young Academy's Board is accountable to the general meeting of members of The Young Academy and to the Board of the Royal Academy. The Young Academy's Board is a facilitatory body, concerning itself primarily with guiding and coordinating ideas and the activities initiated by the members. It is also the first point of contact for external parties and for the Royal Academy.

The Board of The Young Academy meets every two weeks. Every year in April, The Young Academy renders its account to the Board of the Royal Academy based on its Annual Report, and in the autumn it submits the Annual Plan and multi-year budget for approval. The Young Academy is supported by staff from the Forum, Advice & Research Department, the Communication Department, and other supporting departments of the Royal Academy (Legal Affairs, Board of Management, Facility Services, Information Policy, and ICT Services).

1.4 Members' days

All members of The Young Academy meet five times a year, for a members' meeting and a themed programme. Besides the standard components of the members' days – such as feedback on projects and presentations by members – the following activities took place at the 2023 members' days:

- 24 January: During the first members' day of the year, a world café format was used to discuss ongoing projects and themes, such as interdisciplinarity, expanding the doctoral degree conferral right, climate change, and topics that The Young Academy would like to explore further. Detailed information was also provided about the recent report *Support for at-risk scholars in the Netherlands*. The members played Expedition Mundus, a fun educational game that The Young Academy developed in 2010 to introduce primary and secondary school pupils to the fundamentals of science.
- 28 March: This members' day was devoted to showcasing various projects, with *The Memory of Perfume* project team offering a retrospective of their activities and a preview of their follow-up project. Details were also shared about the *Collective Knowledge Development* project, which is aimed at improving opportunities for partnerships between researchers and civil-society partners. Other discussions focused on internationalisation and the language policies at Dutch universities, with presentations by five guest speakers: Bart Pierik, head of the International domain at UNL; Michel Walthouwer, Academic Affairs Policy Director at Maastricht University; Ruud Bollen, Finance Policy Director at Maastricht University; and Kristiaan Versluys and Godelieve Laureys, members of the Royal Flemish Academy of Belgium for Science and the Arts (KVAB) and co-authors of the Royal Flemish Academy's position paper on language policy at universities in Flanders.
- 12 and 13 May: During their annual weekend, members attended various workshops on scientific storytelling and the use of rhetoric, all tailored to suit their research. A world café format was used to delve deeper into the topic of The Young Academy's strategic vision. In addition to their annual meeting, members 'interviewed' Diederik Gommers about his experiences as a scientist working in the media, and about the role of science in government policy and society.
- 28 September: The September members' day is traditionally held on location. This year, it was at Wageningen University & Research. Members devoted the day to exchanging information about their research, with two sessions taking place in which they 'learned from one another' by using objects to spark mutual discussion. There was also a guided tour of the Wageningen campus.

- 23 November: This members' day began with a guided tour of the Trippenhuys complex. The project group that is exploring the experiences of first-generation academics in the Netherlands presented its findings and interviews conducted with academics who were the first in their families to attend university. The Academy's diversity and inclusion adviser, Nelly Konijnendijk, held a workshop on drafting a code of conduct, why it could be important, how the process can be initiated, and what the substance of the code might be. Using the conversation cards 'How to Foster Psychological Safety in Academia' developed by the Dutch Network of Women Professors (LNVH), members then engaged in further discussion. In the evening, there was a Mingler Live! meeting - a 'slow date' event in which artists and researchers brainstormed about working together.

1.5 Themes

The Young Academy focuses on four themes:

- Science Policy
- Science and Society
- Content and Interdisciplinarity
- Internationalisation.

Each Young Academy member is active in at least one theme. It is also possible to organise and carry out activities in smaller project groups and working groups, for example by making use of the project grants available to Young Academy members.

There are strategic vision documents for each theme that are updated regularly with new annual plans and reviews of the priorities set for that theme.

After several years of inactivity, the Arts and Science theme is being relaunched this year. In addition to members of the Society of Arts and the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences, Young Academy members are also active within this theme.

2 SCIENCE POLICY THEME

The Young Academy wishes to influence discussion of national science policy by being not only critical but also constructive. It advises policymakers on science policy, but is never a policy author or co-author itself, and it continues to monitor policy critically. In this regard, The Young Academy represents researchers from various disciplines and universities or institutes.

Current topics of interest or topics that are not on the agenda, or not prioritised there, are discussed in administrative consultations with such parties as the Dutch Ministry of Education, Culture and Science, the Dutch Research Council (NWO), Universities of the Netherlands (UNL), during meetings with university governing bodies (in 2023, these were the governing bodies of the University of Groningen, the University of Amsterdam, Delft University of Technology, Maastricht University and Leiden University), during debates, in statements, and in other administrative discussions.

Members of The Young Academy sat on various national committees in 2023, for example those addressing starter and incentive grants, self-censorship, and the Recognition & Rewards system in Dutch academia.

In 2023 too, The Young Academy was regularly invited to act as a formal or informal partner in discussions of policy intentions or preparation of policy assessments. Members contributed actively to discussions with the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science, for example. Since 2021, there have been periodic consultations with the Ministry's Research & Science Policy directorate on such matters as structural investment in science, diversity and inclusion, and how to reduce systemic pressure. The Executive Board of the Dutch Research Council conducts annual discussions with the Board of The Young Academy.

Highlights in 2023

Everyone Professor!

In March, The Young Academy declared 2023 to be [Everyone Professor Year](#). The Young Academy sees its 'Everyone Professor' project as an important step towards a more balanced and healthy academic climate, in which academics of all ages and with diverse experience and backgrounds are assessed less on the basis of titles and more on their merit and ability. In 'Everyone Professor', The Young Academy argues that every lecturer, senior lecturer or full professor should be entitled to wear a professorial gown, hold the title of 'professor', serve on dissertation-assessment committees (at their own and other universities), vote on whether to award the distinction of cum laude, and if appropriate, confer the degree of 'doctor' on their own PhD candidates. It made its case at various locations, for example [during the alternative inauguration of the academic year on 4 September](#) and during [a debate with representatives of the field](#) on 1 February 2024. Various universities have now taken steps in this direction, for example by extending the right to wear the professorial gown to all members of a doctorate committee, even those who are not full professors. On 14 February 2024, chairperson Marie-José van Tol shared the honour of winning the Academiekus Prize with Kees Storm for their advocacy of equal rights and a flatter hierarchy in the academic world, including the 'Everyone Professor' project.

Positive academic freedom and research funding

While research is not solely about answering pressing questions, the way it is currently funded means that more and more money is channelled into projects and programmes that address urgent issues. That funding is set up this way comes at the expense of more wide-ranging, long-term research and, ultimately, the structure of Dutch science and scholarship.

Dutch researchers are encouraged in all kinds of ways to seek funding for their research in the private sector. There is little clarity, however, as to the type and extent of private-sector participation in scientific

research. The Young Academy has carried out an exploratory study on academic freedom and research funding. The results of that study were published in June 2023 in the report [Space to think. An analysis of structural threats to academic freedom and integrity](#). In that report, The Young Academy calls for greater transparency through 'intellectual audits' and the establishment of guidelines for responsible research funding. More recently (February 2024), the Dutch Parliament adopted [a motion](#) addressing precisely these points and requesting that the government work with the universities on drafting guidelines for responsible research funding.

Diversity and inclusion

The Diversity and Inclusion working group resumed its activities in 2023. One of its aims is to draw up a code of conduct for The Young Academy and to examine how The Young Academy itself deals with diversity and inclusion.

In November 2023, The Young Academy organised [a mini-symposium on diversity and inclusion in the arts and sciences](#). During this event, members of the Royal Academy, the Society of Arts and The Young Academy and guest speakers considered their research and examined how to make the arts and science more diverse and inclusive spaces.

Investment in higher education and research

The Young Academy keeps close track of the effects and impact of investment in higher education and research, as detailed in the policy memorandum on this sector by Education Minister Robbert Dijkgraaf and in the sector plans. In response to the implementation of the Starter Grants, The Young Academy published a [position paper in November 2023 on this subject](#) in which it pointed out three risks that this implementation poses: 1. Competition will not lighten the workload; 2. Variation within and between universities must be avoided; 3. Appointing more PhD students to positions will not always lighten the workload.

Research Funding Consultation

In its [Research Funding Consultation](#) project, The Young Academy utilised a collective participation process in 2022. Participants faced the same dilemmas and constraints in research funding as policymakers do, and had to propose solutions within the given constraints. The Young Academy made the anonymised files public and invited all researchers to make use of the data. The results of the study will be published in 2024.

General election

In the summer of 2023, following the fall of the Dutch government, The Young Academy tabled [three priorities for political parties to address](#) while preparing for the General Election and the subsequent government formation period. These were: more rest and space for talent, guidelines for responsible research funding, and an inclusive academic community. On the eve of the election in November, The Young Academy joined the Royal Academy in calling on the new government to [commit to a strong science system](#). Dutch science has a strong position internationally. That expresses itself in a high level of prosperity and well-being. Maintaining and reinforcing that strong position for future generations is not something to be taken for granted. Crucial in this regard is stable investment of the kind we have seen in recent years. Politicians must commit to a strong science system that is ready to meet the future. The Royal Academy and The Young Academy call on the next government to focus on a number of crucial points:

1. Sufficient and systematic funding across the full breadth of science;
2. International cooperation and an open science system;
3. Policy based on the latest scientific knowledge;
4. An attractive, encouraging, and safe environment for scientists.

TjongeJonge

A new four-part [podcast series bearing the title TjongeJonge](#) ('Jeez') was launched in October 2023. In the series, Dutch researchers attempt to inspire their peers by offering a solution to a problem at their

university. The idea may be related to their own research but it may also address barriers that they encounter in their everyday work. In the first episode, for example, Marian Joëls, former dean of the Faculty of Medical Sciences at the University of Groningen, talked about the four research *impact profiles* in academic career policy.

The Academy Thermometer

[The Academy Thermometer](#) survey was launched in December 2023. It consists of a questionnaire that examines the mental well-being of academics. The questions concern their work satisfaction, perceived support (at the university and at home) and how to prevent mental health complaints (depression, anxiety, stress). This information will provide valuable insights into aspects of working in academia that have a positive or negative impact on mental health. The results will be compared with data from other large-scale population surveys in the Netherlands and published in 2024.

A Smarter Academic Year

The Young Academy's efforts in the project [A Smarter Academic Year](#) bore fruit in 2022 and 2023. Minister Robbert Dijkgraaf invited universities to redesign their academic year to make it 'smarter', and to develop pilot projects exploring this. The Young Academy kicked off the pilot structure during the *opening event* on 28 March 2023 and will be involved in monitoring the pilots for a four-year period.

Generative artificial intelligence in education and research

The Young Academy has launched a working group on *Generative AI in education and research* that seeks to have a debate about artificial intelligence, clear the noise, move forward with developing interventions for education and research, and agendise value discussions within the academic community and relevant institutions. Members of this working group are also involved in a national UNL working group.

Parliament & Science

Parliament & Science is a partnership between the Dutch House of Representatives and six national science organisations, including the Royal Academy and The Young Academy. The purpose of Parliament & Science is to see that Dutch MPs are aware of scientific evidence and insights that they can utilise in the parliamentary process. In 2023, [the partnership undertook various studies \(including network studies\)](#) and authored [a series of science fact sheets](#). Invitations to roundtable and other discussions were extended to researchers via the Parliament & Science partnership. In addition, [a series of scientists' assessments](#) were completed and presented. Two Parliament & Science chairpersons meetings took place during which the chairman of the House welcomed the chairpersons of the science organisations behind Parliament & Science to discuss the status of the partnership.

3 SCIENCE AND SOCIETY THEME

Science is for everyone and is a collective endeavour. In its Science and Society theme, The Young Academy aims to embed science more firmly in society. It does this by engaging in dialogue with people from all walks of life, by working with non-academic partners and by encouraging young children to try their hand at real scientific research. Members often contribute to national or local newspapers and magazines and appear on radio and television programmes. They organise ‘citizen science’ projects and participate in public events where they encourage people — from children in disadvantaged neighbourhoods to the elderly in village or community centres — to take active part in ‘doing science’. The Young Academy also engages in discussion with government, the Dutch Research Council, university governing bodies and the National Centre of Expertise on Science & Society - The Netherlands (NEWS) about such topics as recognition and rewards for science communication and science participation and evaluating projects that bridge the gap between science and society.

Highlights in 2023

Lil’Scientist

One objective of The Young Academy is to convey enthusiasm for and knowledge of science to children, young people and the general public, and to experiment with ways to achieve this. The [Lil’Scientist](#) project is aimed at exactly that, and received an award from the Dutch National Research Agenda in 2022. The official kick-off took place in July 2023 and in the same year, The Young Academy and the IMC Weekend School developed instructive and challenging *citizen science* experiments for children who are otherwise unlikely to encounter science. They are collaborating in this project with the Citizen Science Lab Leiden, the NEMO Science Museum, and *New Scientist*. This year, the project team gave twenty lessons at the Weekend School, divided over ten different classes. In other words, the team worked closely with 200 to 300 children. The Lil’ Scientist lesson materials in fact reached even more children because they were used in mainstream Weekend and primary school classrooms. And that is, ultimately, the whole point: to make all of the materials publicly available so that they can be embedded in mainstream education.

How about a good conversation? How to bring about effective dialogue between scientists and the public
The project [How about a good conversation?](#) involved joining researchers at VU Amsterdam in exploring how effective dialogue can be brought about between scientists and members of the public so as to underpin future activities with research. The project results were presented on 28 March 2023. Analysis of these conversations revealed that when researchers (who introduce themselves as such) talk to community centre visitors, these ‘laypersons’ often introduce themselves within the context of the researcher’s area of specialisation, in an attempt to make themselves relevant conversation partners. The sharing of the layperson’s biographical information and life experience plays a crucial role in this context. Data from this study is also being used to develop a training course for students.

First-generation researchers

In the project [Not Just Anybody!](#): *First-generation scholars and their experiences in science and scholarship*, first-generation researchers employed at various Dutch universities were interviewed with a view to developing recommendations for improving equal opportunities in Dutch science and scholarship. The interviews and a qualitative reflection on the topic will be published in 2024.

Collective Knowledge Development

Transdisciplinary research incorporates the knowledge and expertise of civil-society stakeholders and businesses throughout the entire research process. Research funding bodies are increasingly funding transdisciplinary research, but setting up such research and carrying it out is complicated. In its project [Collective Knowledge Development](#), The Young Academy is bringing together the views of researchers,

civil-society partners, and staff of the Dutch Research Council in order to identify the obstacles involved. Part of the project is being carried out in collaboration with the Dutch Research Council's [Knowledge Platform for Interdisciplinary and Transdisciplinary Research](#). On 2 February and 10 May, the Dutch Research Council and The Young Academy organised a series of roundtable discussions. One of the results was a [visual report](#). Based on a survey, interviews and the roundtable discussions, The Young Academy plans to publish an advisory report in 2024 offering researchers, the Dutch Research Council and knowledge institutions specific guidelines for undertaking and supporting interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research.

Faces of Science

Faces of Science began in 2013 as a collaborative project between the Royal Academy, The Young Academy and NEMO Kennislink, funded by the Lira Foundation. PhD candidates who feature in [Faces of Science](#) offer a glimpse of their lives and their research in videos, blogs, articles and other channels. The aim is to spotlight these young scientists and scholars and have them show what life as a researcher is all about. Faces of Science is primarily intended for young people who are deciding what to study, but also for other interested parties. On 1 November 2023, the Trippenhuis complex was the setting for a tenth anniversary reunion of all current Faces of Science and alumni, organised in conjunction with Max van Duijn, a first-generation Face of Science. The opening remarks were delivered by Eddie Brummelman, member of the Board of The Young Academy.

Participation in various public meetings and contributions in the media

Members of The Young Academy frequently attend public meetings to talk about their research and/or Young Academy reports. They also do this in the media. To list a few examples from 2023: there were articles and news items about the advisory report *Support for Refugee Scholars in the Netherlands* ([de Volkskrant](#), 2 September 2023 and [Radio 1](#), 23 January 2023), the meeting *InterScience Time Machine* about past and future coral reefs ([Leidsch Dagblad](#), 8 February 2023), girls and women in science ([Koffietijd](#), 10 February 2023), the research report *Space to Think. An analysis of structural threats to academic freedom and integrity* ([NRC](#), 29 June 2023; [BNR](#), 30 June 2023), the *Everyone Professor Year* ([AD](#), 8 October 2023), and the *Academy Thermometer* survey ([Radio 1](#), 12 December 2023).

4 CONTENT AND INTERDISCIPLINARITY THEME

The Content and Interdisciplinarity theme provides a platform for content exchange and cooperation. Members engaging with this theme concern themselves with scientific and scholarly reflection and social questions that require interdisciplinary input.

In 2023, The Young Academy once more gave content – i.e. research (by members) – a prominent role at members' meetings by having various members give short lectures. This approach encourages an exchange of content and inspiration, and provides an excellent starting point for members to apply for a project grant for interdisciplinary collaboration. Another area of focus in 2023 was to continue developing and consolidating ideas for interdisciplinary collaboration.

Young Academy members and alumni sit on various Royal Academy and Society of Arts committees and juries, including the various councils, the jury for the Education Prize and the Heineken Prizes (see Appendix 4 for a detailed list). Young Academy members also gave lectures during the Royal Academy's members' days, and one Young Academy member delivered a keynote address during the Grant Week for researchers at Royal Academy institutes.

Highlights in 2023

InterScience The Young Academy

As part of the [InterScience symposium series](#), in which representatives of different disciplines examine a subject before a wide audience, The Young Academy organised the [InterScience Time Machine](#) meeting at the Naturalis Biodiversity Centre on 8 February 2023. During the meeting, the audience was taken on a journey through time by a marine biologist, a galactic archaeologist, an art historian and an artists' collective.

Collaboration with the Royal Academy and the Society of Arts

In July 2023, the Minister of Education, Culture and Science [offered his comments](#) on the [advisory letter about cross-fertilisation between the arts and science](#) issued by a working group of members of the Society of Arts, The Young Academy and the Royal Academy active in the [Arts and Science theme](#). After reviewing existing funds for culture and science, the working group concluded that ground-breaking collaborations between artists and scientists scarcely benefit from these funding sources, and argued in favour of supporting the growth of transdisciplinary endeavours. The Young Academy has now joined forces with the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science and other parties, including WAAG, Kunsten '92, various culture funds, the Dutch Research Council, SIA and the Creative Industries Top Sector Team to examine whether better use can be made of the existing funding schemes within the current financial frameworks. A working conference on this topic will be organised in 2024.

The 2023 [Mingler Scholarship](#), awarded in conjunction with the Society of Arts and funded by the Niemeijer Fund, was presented to artist and designer Pei-Ying Lin and scientist Yi-Ching Huang for their project [Field Guide to the Artificial Intelligence Bestiary](#). The Mingler Live! meeting in November 2023 saw thirty artists and scientists gather for the annual 'slow date' event. The Mingler Scholarship laureates also presented their initial findings during the event.

Interdisciplinary projects

The second season of the (Dutch-language) [podcast series Over de Kop](#) ('About My Brain') was released in 2023. This season's theme was 'A day in the life of a brain'. The series was produced by the Brein in Beeld Foundation in cooperation with The Young Academy. Brain experts sat down with Pieter Hulst, presenter of such TV programmes as 'Keuringsdienst van Waarde' and 'De Proefkeuken', and his sidekick to discuss

what happens in the brain during everyday activities. Philosopher Joeri Tjebk, a Young Academy member, added a philosophical note to each episode.

The Real Homo Economicus project involved organising an interdisciplinary workshop and group interviews (2–3 people) in 2023 in which The Young Academy and participants considered how exploring other disciplines influences their assumptions, opens their eyes, and raises new questions. The main question examined was: how is it that all the various disciplines that study economic activity – financial, behavioural, political, institutional, ecological, feminist economics, economic anthropology – are based on divergent images of humanity? The fact that different disciplines have such divergent images as their starting point perhaps also explains why there is hardly any interdisciplinary exchanges between anthropologists and behavioural economists, for example, or between mainstream and heterodox economists. In addition to providing input for an English-language podcast that will be released in 2024, the project results also serve as a topic for reflection within the Content and Interdisciplinarity theme.

5 INTERNATIONALISATION THEME

The Internationalisation theme aims to reinforce the merits, quality, and impact of science and scholarship internationally. With that in mind, the members active in this theme organise activities with two core objectives:

- 1) Strengthening the position of young scientists and scholars worldwide and improving the diversity and sustainability of science/scholarship in general by aligning with European and global initiatives:
 - Representing young researchers on scientific advisory bodies;
 - Contributing to solving global problems, such as academia's carbon emissions, scientists/scholars in high-risk situations, and sustainability goals.
- 2) A Dutch academia that is more inclusive and attractive for international scientists and scholars to come to the Netherlands or remain here, and support for the international nature of science and scholarship:
 - Bilingual release of all of The Young Academy's communications and documents;
 - Publishing and updating [A Beginner's Guide to Dutch Academia](#);
 - Identifying instances of exclusion or inequality at universities;
 - Learning lessons from good examples of international practices;
 - Engaging with the Caribbean part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

Highlights in 2023 that align with the first objective:

Refugee scientists/scholars

In 2023, The Young Academy published a report entitled [Support for Refugee Scholars in the Netherlands. Facilities, problems, and recommendations for structured support for at-risk scholars in and from the Netherlands](#). In this report, The Young Academy set out the problems faced by knowledge institutions in this regard, and made recommendations for structurally improving the situation for all refugee scholars in the Netherlands. Members of The Young Academy have joined forces with other parties, including UAF and NUFFIC, to get *Scholars at Risk* - Netherlands off the ground.

In 2023, The Young Academy continued to be involved in the [Dutch Research Council programme Hestia – Impulse for Refugees in Science](#).

Knowledge Mission to South Africa

From 15 to 18 October, the caretaker Minister of Education, Culture and Science, Robbert Dijkgraaf, headed a delegation of 21 prominent Dutch educational and knowledge organisations on a [knowledge mission to South Africa](#). The Royal Academy's president and The Young Academy's chairperson also joined the mission. The mission aligns with The Young Academy's wish to enhance the Netherlands' position in international science and scholarship and to use *science diplomacy* to cement international relations. The Young Academy joined the Royal Academy and the Dutch Research Council in hosting a session on shared values in Dutch and South African science and scholarship. It also partnered with the South African Young Academy of Science (SAYAS) in organising a dinner whose attendees shared their views on three themes important to both organisations: first-generation scientists and scholars, open science and recognition and rewards.

Membership of international organisations and cooperation with them

- The Young Academy promotes international cooperation in exchanges with other young academies and organisations in a European and global context.
- In May 2023, the chairperson and Board member responsible for Internationalisation attended the European National Young Academies meeting in Stockholm, Sweden. The Young Academy endorsed the product of that meeting, the [Stockholm Charter on Academic Freedom](#).

- The Young Academy is a member of the European Young Academies Scientific Advice Structure (YASAS), which participates as an equal partner in SAPEA, part of the EU's [Science Advice Mechanism \(SAM\)](#). Through this membership, The Young Academy contributes to science for policy and the publication of (evidence-based) recommendations for the European Commission.
- Members of The Young Academy are also members of the Global Young Academy (GYA) and the Young Academy of Europe.
- Two of The Young Academy's members were nominated by the Royal Academy to participate in the *Young Leaders Program* during the annual Science and Technology in Society (STS) Forum, held in Kyoto, Japan, in October.

Highlights in 2023 that align with the second objective:

September 2023 saw the publication of the PNN report [PNN Monitor: International Scholarship PhD Candidates](#). The report features a contribution by The Young Academy based on its own survey, conducted in 2018. In the report, Promovendi Netwerk Nederland (PNN) and The Young Academy argue that the position and funding of international scholarship PhD candidates must be fundamentally overhauled at national level. These candidates are deeply troubled about their financial status and find it difficult to make ends meet.

In November 2023, The Young Academy responded to the *Internationalisation in Balance* bill (*Wetsvoorstel internationalisering in balans*) by issuing the [Young Academy's Position Statement on Language in Higher Education and Internationalisation](#). In this statement, The Young Academy emphasises that top-quality science cannot exist without the international exchange of knowledge, researchers, and students. In addition, The Young Academy regards language policy as an inappropriate and inefficient means of controlling the influx of international students into Dutch higher education.

6 YOUNG ACADEMY COMMITTEES

The Young Academy has two standing committees:

The Young Academy project grants committee

Young Academy project grants make it possible for members to work together to develop plans and ideas that fit in with The Young Academy's objectives (see Section 1.1). Members' plans contributing to one or more of those objectives may be eligible for funding. The project or activity need not be relevant for all members of The Young Academy. The Young Academy's project grants committee is responsible for allocating a limited number of grants. As usual, there were two rounds of allocations in 2023. See Appendix 3 for a list of projects that were allocated a Young Academy project grant.

In 2023, the members of the project grants committee were:

- Thijs Bol (committee chairman and responsible Board member)
- Selma de Mink
- Shari Boodts
- Stephan Smeekes
- Tazuko van Berkel

Selection committee

The Young Academy selection committee consists of four members, two from The Young Academy itself and two from the Royal Academy. The technical chair of the selection committee is the chairperson of The Young Academy. The committee selects ten new members of The Young Academy each year.

A total of 83 candidates (80 of them unique) were nominated for selection in 2024. During the first selection round, points were awarded based on the content of the nominations, taking into account the criteria set out in *The Young Academy's Selection Regulations*.

Based on this round of assessment, twenty candidates were invited for an interview with the selection committee, with further assessment being based on the following criteria:

- fascination with and passion for scientific/scholarly research and education;
- a wish to play an active role in The Young Academy and interesting ideas about how they would do so;
- enthusiasm for such topics as science policy, science and society, the connection between research and teaching, interdisciplinary collaboration, or internationalisation.

After the interviews, ten candidates were selected as members. Appendix 2 lists those selected (in 2022) to join The Young Academy as members in 2023.

In 2023, the members of the selection committee were:

- Karin Roelofs, professor of Experimental Psychopathology, Radboud University (Royal Academy member)
- Christian Lange, professor of Arabic and Islamic Studies, Utrecht University (Royal Academy member)
- Chiel van Heerwaarden, associate professor of Meteorology, Wageningen University (Young Academy member)
- Hilde Verbeek, professor of Gerontology, Maastricht University (Young Academy member)
- The technical chair of the selection committee is the chairperson of The Young Academy, Marie-José van Tol.

7 FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

The Royal Academy's contribution for the Young Academy in 2023 was EUR 389,000. Of this, EUR 292,874 was actually utilised.

Item	Annual Budget	Utilised in 2023
Salary costs	189,057	146,733.01
Publication costs	29,543	27,286.49
Other administrative costs	2,500	2,235.57
Symposia/workshops	36,700	29,482.38
Travel and accommodation costs	7,500	23,437.54
Entertainment expenses	800	2,116.40
Board member donations	32,500	19,375
Project grants and standard grants	100,000	42,207.41
Final total	389,000	292,873.80

Explanation of utilisation in 2023:

- Salary costs comprise: costs for a policy officer, Forum, Advisory and Research Department (FAO) (1 FTE); a policy adviser (0.3 FTE); a communications adviser (0.5 FTE); and the workplaces (facilities and ICT).
- The budget for travel and accommodation was exceeded owing to additional costs associated with the Knowledge Mission to South Africa.
- Entertainment expenses are higher owing to procurement for the years to come.
- Some of the donations made to Board members' work environment for 2023 were transferred in January 2024, meaning that the budget earmarked for 2023 was not spent in its entirety.
- For project grants and standard grants, there was an underspend of €57,793 owing to the de-commitment of closed project grants and standard grants.
 - A total of EUR 64,407 in project grants was allocated in the two rounds in 2023. EUR 29,573 in funding was returned from project grants awarded in previous years.
 - Standard grants amounting to EUR 50,000 are reserved each year, i.e. EUR 1000 per member per membership year. Of the standard grants reserved for the members of the 2018 cohort who became alumni in 2023, EUR 42,626 was not spent and the reservations were returned. After taking office in April 2024, the new Board will draw up a plan for how best to spend these resources in 2024.

8 APPENDICES

Appendix 1. Members as of April 2023

Name	Cohort	Discipline	University/Organisation
Dr Anton Akhmerov	2019	Quantum Nanoscience/Natural Sciences	Delft University of Technology
Dr Tim Baarslag	2020	Artificial Intelligence	CWI/Utrecht University
Dr Tazuko van Berkel	2022	Greek and Latin Languages and Culture	Leiden University
Dr Marjolijn Bol	2021	Technical Art History	Utrecht University
Dr Thijs Bol	2020	Sociology	University of Amsterdam
Dr Shari Boodts	2021	Ancient and Medieval History	Radboud University Nijmegen
Dr Saskia Bonjour	2019	Gender & Politics	University of Amsterdam
Dr Eddie Brummelman	2021	Developmental Psychology and Pedagogics	University of Amsterdam
Dr Bieke Cattoor	2023	Landscape Architecture	Delft University of Technology
Dr Pieter Coppens	2023	Islamic Studies	VU University Amsterdam
Dr Irene Dedoussi	2022	Aerospace Engineering	Delft University of Technology
Dr Scott Douglas	2023	Governance	Utrecht University
Dr Max van Duijn	2023	Language/Narrative Studies, Cognitive Science, Artificial Intelligence	Leiden University
Dr Sanli Faez	2021	Nanophotonics	Utrecht University
Dr Karwan Fatah-Black	2020	History of the Early Modern Atlantic World	Leiden University
Dr Kristina Ganzinger	2023	Biophysics	AMOLF NWO
Dr Caroline Gevaert	2022	Geoinformatics	University of Twente
Dr Tom de Greef	2020	Synthetic Biology & DNA Nanotechnology	Eindhoven University of Technology/Radboud University Nijmegen
Dr Liesbeth van de Grift	2020	History	Utrecht University
Dr Carolien van Ham	2021	Political Science	Radboud University Nijmegen
Dr Chiel van Heerwaarden	2021	Meteorology	Wageningen University & Research
Dr Helmer Helmers	2019	Pre-Modern Dutch Literature	The Royal Academy's Humanities Cluster
Dr Lizza Hendriks	2021	Thoracic Oncology	Maastricht UMC+
Dr Lisa Herzog	2022	Philosophy	University of Groningen
Dr Nanna Haug Hilton	2019	Sociolinguistics	University of Groningen/EFTA
Dr Liesbeth Janssen	2020	Theoretical Physics	Eindhoven University of Technology

Dr Léonie de Jonge	2023	Political Science	University of Groningen
Dr Maryam Kavousi	2020	Epidemiology	Erasmus University Medical Centre
Dr Renske Keizer	2019	Family Sociology	Erasmus University Rotterdam
Dr Rogier Kievit	2023	Developmental Neuroscience, Developmental Psychology, Quantitative Methods	Radboud University Nijmegen
Dr Vicky Kosta	2023	European Law	Leiden University
Dr Lotte Krabbenborg	2020	Science and Technology Studies	Radboud University Nijmegen
Dr Ingrid Leijten	2023	Constitutional Law	Tilburg University
Dr Jeroen Leijten	2021	Tissue Engineering	University of Twente
Dr Cynthia Liem	2021	Technical Computer Science	Delft University of Technology
Dr Selma de Mink	2019	Astronomy	Max Planck Institute for Astrophysics
Dr Noel de Miranda	2022	Cancer Immunology	Leiden University Medical Centre/Leiden University
Dr Daphina Misiedjan	2023	Human Rights and Environmental Law	Erasmus University Rotterdam
Dr Jim Portegies	2022	Mathematics	Eindhoven University of Technology
Dr Erik van Sebille	2019	Oceanography	Utrecht University
Dr Stephan Smeekes	2019	Econometrics and Statistics	Maastricht University
Dr Arne Smeets	2019	Mathematics	KU Leuven
Dr Else Starckenburg	2022	Astronomy	University of Groningen
Dr Pooyan Tamimi Arab	2022	Philosophy and Religious Studies	Utrecht University
Dr Linnet Taylor	2020	Data Science	Tilburg University
Dr Joeri Tijdink	2022	Meta-Research and Psychiatry	VU University and Amsterdam UMC
Dr Marie-José van Tol	2019	Cognitive Neuropsychiatry	University Medical Centre Groningen
Dr Hilde Verbeek	2020	Gerontology, Geriatric Psychology and Nursing Science	Maastricht University
Dr Michel Vols	2021	Law	University of Groningen
Dr Fleur Zeldenrust	2022	Computational Neuroscience	Radboud University Nijmegen

Appendix 2. New members in 2023

The following individuals were installed as members of The Young Academy on 28 March 2023 and appointed as members for a period of five years as from 1 April 2023:

- Dr Bieke Cattoor (Landscape Architecture, Delft University of Technology)
- Dr Pieter Coppens (Islamic Studies, VU Amsterdam)
- Dr Scott Douglas (Governance, Utrecht University)
- Dr Max van Duijn (Language/Narrative Studies and Artificial Intelligence, Leiden University)
- Dr Kristina Ganzinger (Biophysics, AMOLF)
- Dr Léonie de Jonge (Political Science, University of Groningen)
- Dr Vicky Kosta (European Law, Leiden University)
- Dr Rogier Kievit (Developmental Neuroscience, Radboud University Nijmegen)
- Dr Ingrid Leijten (Dutch and European Constitutional Law, Tilburg University)
- Dr Daphina Misiedjan (Human Rights and Environmental Law, Erasmus University Rotterdam)

In selecting new members, The Young Academy strives for a balanced representation within the membership of universities, disciplines, gender, and other relevant dimensions of diversity, as well as members' command of the Dutch language.

Appendix 3. Project grants in 2023

The following projects were allocated a Young Academy project grant in 2023:

Lead applicant	Title of project
Eddie Brummelman	Not Just Anybody 2.0
Lotte Krabbenborg	Collective knowledge development: Exploratory research on transdisciplinarity in science 2.0
Fleur Zeldenrust	Big tech in academic education
Rogier Kievit	Green Young Academy: The future of Dutch academia in times of climate change
Marjolijn Bol	Room for wonder. The Young Academy-Academy of Arts time capsule project

Appendix 4. Participation by Young Academy members in Royal Academy councils, advisory committees, selection committees, assessment committees and juries and in the science committees of Royal Academy institutes

Table 1: Participation by Young Academy members in Royal Academy councils and advisory committees in 2023

Councils	
Council for the Humanities (RGW)	Nadine Akkerman, Helmer Helmers, Liesbeth van de Grift
Council for Medical Sciences (RMW)	Hilde Verbeek, Marie-José van Tol, Joeri Tjeldink, Lizza Hendriks
Council for Natural Sciences and Engineering (RNTW)	Erik van Sebille
Social Sciences Council (SWR)	Carolien van Ham, Lotte Krabbenborg, Michel Vols
Advisory committees	
Advisory Committee on Planetary Health	Lisa Becking
Committee to Evaluate the Netherlands Code of Conduct for Research Integrity	Lotte Krabbenborg
International committees	
Ocean Circulation and Coastal Regions (European Academies Science Advisory Council, EASAC)	Erik van Sebille
PERISCOPE (Pan-European Response to the Impacts of Covid-19 and future Pandemics and Epidemics) Work package 1: Indirect Health Effects (FEAM)	Arfan Ikram

Table 2: Participation by Young Academy members in juries and committees of the Royal Academy Science Funds in 2023

Selection committees	
Society of Arts (AvK)	Fleur Zeldenrust
Juries and selection/assessment/advisory committees for Royal Academy Science Funds programmes	
Statesman Thorbecke Fund	Ingrid Leijten
Faces of Science	Joeri Tjeldink
Royal Academy Education Prize	Joeri Tjeldink, Caroline Gevaert, Lizza Hendriks
Lindau Nobel Laureate Meetings	Kristina Ganzinger
Instituut Gak-KNAW Award	Renske Keizer
Mingler Scholarship	Pooyan Tamimi Arab, Marjolijn Bol

Table 3: Participation by Young Academy members in the science committees/advisory councils of the Royal Academy institutes in 2023

Science Committee of the Huygens Institute for the History of the Netherlands (Huygens ING)	Nadine Akkerman
Science Committee of the Royal Netherlands Institute of Southeast Asian and Caribbean Studies (KITLV)	Lisa Becking, Daphina Misiedjan
Science Committee of the Netherlands Institute for War, Holocaust and Genocide Studies (NIOD)	Liesbeth van de Grift